August 2, 1982

Dear Harold,

Thanks for your letter of the 19th, and thanks for checking out Comer Clark in the DFO index. I've since been told that Dan Schorr tried to find out more about Clark several years ago, with no real luck.

Agreed, Clark and the Enquirer are quite capable of coming up with a fictional meeting with Castro, but the question is, how could they come up with the substance of Castro's remarks, when they match what was known in 1964 (to a few people only, since it was Top Secret) as an informant's report of similar remarks by Castro. Too strange to be a coincidence, I think.

The Bantam book on the Taft film was available from B. Dalton's, at least for a while in early June. Right now, I haven't been able to find it in various other local stores. I never heard much about what happened to the film; as I recall, Gary Mack said they tried it in a few theaters, with not-good-enough audience reaction, and decided not to market it. There was talk of possible TV and foreign distribution, I think.

Enclosed are the items you asked about. To the Capote excerpt, I've added a clip which Larry Haapanen told me about after the last EOC came out. Maybe I'll try to get someone to pursue this, now that we have the name of the reporter - at least, we could get the original Italian story.

Re item #70, Howard Davis' 134 file: I've enclosed two versions of the first page. The one with no deletions is what was released in 1976-77 (in the original release). Now they have deleted the Davis file number. The copy with that deletion comes from an FOIA request specifically on the subject of the Hall-Hatchcock-Watley story. You, Bud, and Jim might be interested in this. The requester was Michael Di Giovanni, 324 East 20th St., #19, Costa Mesa, CA 92627. I don't really know if the recent "names of agents" bills can be construed to apply here, but one might want to step lightly in using this information.

There are lots of references to Davis in the Turner book, but I haven't checks to see if any of them suggest he was an informant.

I've enclosed the epilogue to the Lifton book. I don't think there were any changes to the text.

Yes, I did remember that you had told me something about "who struck John" some years ago, but I didn't recall the substance, and I figured it would be too much trouble to find it in my files. Thanks for the information. The only other usage I've found (in reference books) is "intoxicating liquor"! None of the other buffs have given me any other examples of the use of this phrase. Yes, Angleton's use was consistent with a putdown meaning, as you suggested. Presumably to distance himself from the domestic CIA activities which Hersh was asking about.

Have you heard from or about Sylvia recently? A couple of weeks ago, I heard that she had just gotten out of the hospital. This reached me purely by chance (from Henny Youngman's grandson, as a matter of fact - Larry Kelley, who is thinking about doing a TV program on the JFK case for 11/83.)

With best regards,

Paul

PLH